

Government of India  
Ministry of Education  
Department of Higher Education

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1153**  
**ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025**

**Improving quality of higher education and research capacity in Bihar**

**1153 Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has conducted a comprehensive assessment of shortages related to permanent faculty, advanced laboratories, hostels and research facilities across State Universities and colleges in Bihar;
- (b) the status of grants released under PM-USHA, RUSA and HEFA during financial year 2024–25 for infrastructure upgrade; and
- (c) the steps taken to promote digital classrooms, incubation centres, interdisciplinary research and skill-oriented academic programmes?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education and research is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. However, recognizing the need for central assistance, the Central Government has implemented various schemes including Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for supporting State Governments. RUSA is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding new institutions and specific State government universities and colleges, so as to improve their quality by ensuring their conformity to prescribed norms and standards. Under the Scheme, support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening infrastructure, including research facilities, construction of hostels, academic and administrative buildings, laboratories, and other facilities required for improving access and quality in higher education.

The government has launched the third phase of RUSA in June 2023 in the form of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), with an outlay of Rs. 12926.10 crore, including the committed liabilities of earlier phase of RUSA, for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26, to cater to the needs of educationally unserved/ underserved areas.

Under PM-USHA, the scheme supports the strengthening and upgradation of infrastructure in the State Higher Education system through various components viz., Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU), Grants to Strengthen Universities (GSU), Grants to Strengthen Colleges (GSC), New Model Degree Colleges (NMDC) and Gender Inclusion and Equity Initiatives (GIEI). Under various component, a

total of 101 projects have been approved for a total amount of Rs. 730.83 crore in the State of Bihar.

Under the scheme, funds are released through the SNA-SPARSH model for the States /UTs. Under the SNA-SPARSH model, vendors and beneficiaries receive direct payments through daily sanction releases based on the submission of bills on the PFMS portal. During the financial year 2024-25, central funds amount to Rs. 350.83 Crore has been released to all States and UTs.

Under PM-USHA, States/ UTs undertake various activities such as (i) setting up start-up incubation centres and technology development centres for skill-based courses; (ii) placement/ training and certification programmes, structural reforms according to the increased industry-ready courses and industry-academia linkages; (iii) internship/ apprenticeship embedded degree programme; (iv) focus on skilling and vocationalization training/ workshops/ placements for females, transgenders etc.

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